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SAVING HISTORICAL RECORDS

(Copied from Terre Haute Star, Dec., 20, 1922)

VIGO CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INDIANA ROOM
Bld. R room 100m

Efforts have been made from time to time by a group of Vigo County enthusiasts to perfect an organization that will preserve historic records, papers, trophies and traditions of Vigo County. The undertaking has not received the support it merits from every citizen of the community... Mrs. Sallie Hughes, city librarian, and A.R. Markle got new inspiration for the work while in attendance at the meeting of the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis recently. They have brought back a well ordered program for work and it appears that the cause so long neglected will receive attention that will bring results. The Terre Haute members of the Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution through long continued efforts of Professor Herbert Briggs have realized one big thing in the order for the study of Indiana history in public schools. Mr. Briggs and his associates also have made a program that with the study of Indiana history will encourage collection of data in various counties and communities. All that is needed to make permanent the results of this work is a body such as a Historical Society that will go more completely into the county history than is possible in a school program.

Vigo county is rich in history of early Indiana. Some of the historical places in city and county have been preserved. Others have passed and in some cases even the location has been forgotten. Papers, letters, pictures, and historical documents have been scattered. Some in the possession of families are available. These should be obtained for the Historical society and placed where they will be available for future generations. The work undertaken by the small group should receive the hearty support of all citizens and organizations.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HEARS EARLY LIFE

Interesting sketches of early days here presented at regular meeting.

(Copied from Terre Haute Tribune, June 29, 1923)

The Vigo County Historical Society at a regular meeting Thursday evening announced acknowledgements of honorary membership conferred upon S.D.Gookins, Reece H. Vorhees, Ray Jenckes, Rollin H. Buntin, James D. McNeal, Helen S. Gilbert, Mrs. Belle F. Jones, Curtis Gilbert, Richard Blake, J. L. Oakley, Col. James T. Sawyer and James D. Stanley. A larger number of these are not residents of the county at the present time but either have been at one time or are descendents of persons prominent in the early history of Vigo county.

Extracts from a volume of the Western Register, the first newspaper published in the county was read by Mrs. Herbert Briggs... A poem in tribute to Col. Thomas H. Nelson was read by Mrs. Alice Fisher Harcourt. Mrs. Harcourt also told some interesting reminiscences of Col. Richard Thompson and Senator Voorhees. Remarks were made by Judge Sidney B. Davis and Ray Cummings. Mr. Cummings' mother was a resident in Fort Harrison at one time.

FORM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organization to gather and preserve local data.

(Copied from Terre Haute Tribune, Dec. 20, 1922)

An organization to preserve valuable data and documents connected with the early history of the city and county was stated yesterday evening through the efforts of Mrs. Sallie Hughes and A. R. Markle, who attended the recent meeting of the Indiana Historical Society at Indianapolis.

Judge D. W. Henry was appointed temporary chairman of the organization and the following were appointed on a committee of organization and constitution: Herbert A. Briggs, A.A.Faurot and Mrs. Sallie Hughes. A membership committee was also appointed consisting of A. R. Markle, Miss Anna Sankey and Harry Gilbert.

These committees will draft reports which will be presented at a meeting to be called as soon as the preliminary work is completed. The purpose of the organization is to collect and preserve valuable records of the history of the city and county which are now being neglected. The organization will probably prepare a history of the city and county.

Terre Haute's First Museum—It's History

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Though genealogy is my first love, tracing the ancestry of an item of antique furniture and its maker, or tracing ownership of a piece of real estate, can be just as fascinating and absorbing. When the Vigo County Historical Society recently acquired the property at 1411 South Sixth street for their museum, it was most interesting to trace the history of the house, and to learn something about its builder and its former occupants.

Our history of the property starts back on July 2nd, 1825, when the trustees, Moses Hoggatt and Robert Sturgis conveyed Out Lot



Dorothy J. Clark

On November 25th, 1843, a part of Out Lot No. 66 was set off to Owen G. Bullitt and a part to Mary B. Atkinson (formerly Mary Bullitt and later, Mary B. Stewart). On June 10th, 1844, Owen G. Bullitt sold his part to Thomas E. Wilson, who with his wife, Caroline, sold in turn to Daniel A. Jones, July 15th, 1850.

On April 28, 1856, Mary B. Stewart and her husband, Adam, sold their part of Out Lot No. 66 to Daniel A. Jones, who with his wife, Harriet A., sold to Emilie R. Teel for \$3,800 on February 20th, 1864. Five days later Henry H. Teel and his wife, Emilie R., sold to William H. Sage an undivided one-half interest for \$2,600 and on April 26th, 1875, sold the remaining one-half interest to Mr. Sage for \$1.00. Four days later, William H. Sage sold to Henry Robinson for \$17,000.

Listed As Salesman.

Not too much is known about Henry H. Teel and his wife, Emilie, except that in 1858 he was listed as a salesman for Mr. Ross, and they lived at the corner of Fifth and Canal streets. In 1864 Mr. Teel was listed as a pomologist, an expert in the field of fruit culture, and still residing on North Fifth street.

It is most peculiar about the interests of Wm. H. Sage. You will note he acquired a one-half interest in 1864 and held it for ten years. He only acquired the other half interest four days before he sold to Robinson. The consideration here (\$17,000) would indicate the house was on the property, but still Sage only had a half interest in the property until very shortly before he sold it. No explanation has been found as to why Mr. Sage built a house on property in which he only held a half interest.

Built in Three Parts.

We have learned, however, that the house was built in three parts. The first and front section was built by Mr. Sage in 1868. At least, this is the first mention of a dwelling house on the southwest corner of Sixth and Moffatt streets. Moffatt street was an earlier name for Washington street, as Willow was formerly Gulick street.

The first city directory lists Sage as a "baker and confectioner, located on the southside of Wabash west of Fifth street, and his residence was between Sixth and Seventh on Swan," remaining there until 1868, when his business had moved to 118 Main, (now he was also a "dealer in fruits, nuts and fireworks") and he had moved his residence to Sixth and Moffatt. Here he remained until 1876 when he moved to the southwest corner of Eighth and Chestnut streets, and the Robinson family moved in. Henry Robinson, who owned the property for the next twenty-seven years, and was responsible for enlarging it by adding on a second

part, was born July 12th, 1827 in Canada, the son of William Robinson, who was born in the state of New York. When a boy of twelve, Henry's parents moved to a farm in northern Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Returned To New York.

Henry Robinson returned to New York for several winters to attend school. Later he spent several winters cutting timber in the pine woods of Wisconsin. Returning from there to New York, he spent two or three seasons at work in a cooper shop, returning again to the old home in Illinois.

From there he came to Terre Haute, in 1856 or 1857, and in 1858 was boarding with John M. Adams at the corner of Second and Mulberry streets. Adams and Robinson were two of the first auctioneers in Terre Haute. The next year he opened a yankee notion store and auction house on the south side of Main street, between Fourth and Fifth, six doors east of the Southern Bank Building, and he lived on North Fifth street. At different times in his business career he was in partnership with Mr. Adams, Mr. Shurbin and Mr. C. L. Braman.

I followed the life of Henry Robinson and his family through the city directories and other reference books with great interest. From 1868 to 1875 he lived on Thirteenth street, described as "north of the city limits" and "north of Sixth avenue on the west side of Thirteenth." Beginning in 1876, his business was located at 602 Main, and his home was listed as "1409 South Sixth." This address was given until 1901 when it was changed to 1411 South Sixth, the address it has now.

In 1858 Mr. Robinson married the widow of Henry Holmes, the former Miss Ann Carey. Their children included Frank E., George H., William A., and Tillie A., who lived to maturity. Henry Robinson died Dec. 1, 1902, and his wife, Ann, died April 21, 1904, both aged 75 years, and buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Property Rented.

During the two years before the estate was settled, the house was occupied by Frank C. and Mabel

Wagner, who rented the property. Mrs. Robinson lived at 1027 Maple avenue. In 1905 the property was purchased by Clemens W. Nagel and has been lived in by some member of that family until it was purchased by the Vigo County Historical Society from Mrs. Marcella Nagel Lundgren. The Nagel family was responsible for the third and last addition in the remodeling of the house.

In the eighty-nine years since the house was built in 1868, it has been occupied by only four different families: first, by the William H. Sage household for eight years from 1868 to 1876; second, the Henry Robinson family for twenty-seven years from 1876 to 1903; third, the Frank Wagners, as renters, for two years from 1903 to 1905; and fourth, the Nagel family for fifty-two years from 1905 to 1957.

Possession This Month.

The Historical Society expects to gain possession of their new property in November. Plans are now being formulated for taking over the management of the building. The upper floors will remain as rented apartments. The main floor will house both permanent and changing exhibits, the library and the office. It is hoped that part of the lower level can be converted to house the collection of Indian artifacts of the Guy Stantz memorial.

As funds become available, it is planned to make use of the parlors as meeting rooms for club groups. Committees are being formed to handle the problems of housing, library, grounds, maintenance, finance, etc.

In the now-foreseeable future, the Historical Society will soon be able to welcome groups of school children, and all interested persons to inspect Terre Haute's first Museum, a long-awaited advance in this community's cultural and educational growth.

Community Affairs File

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Save Those Raw Materials of History in Attic

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

History is written largely from the written records which survive the ravages of time. Among these "raw materials" are letters, public records, business records, old newspapers, diaries, etc. Every day, somewhere in this community, something historically precious is destroyed. A great deal of it goes up in smoke. "Mom" finally gets "Dad" to clean up the attic and a box of Great-grandmother's letters go into the trash burner. Workmen need a clear field to rewire, remodel or insulate the attic and out go precious old newspapers or family papers by the trunk full.



Dorothy J. Clark

Don't misunderstand me. I'm in favor of cleanliness, clean attics included. I agree that a mass of paper in the attic may be a fire hazard. But, PLEASE, don't destroy valuable documents. Give them to your local Museum. Don't call to tell me what you destroyed yesterday, but instead tell me about what you saved from destruction.

To illustrate what I've just written, let me cite the example of Krietenstein's Glass and Paint Store at the southwest corner of Fourth and Cherry streets. The present owners are H. G. Tuttle and his family, who are the great-grandchildren of the founder, Carl Krietenstein, who came to Terre Haute in 1859.

Recently some changes were made in the storeroom and to gain more space it was necessary to move an accumulation of old record books and other business papers. Instead of carting them all out for immediate disposal, I was called in to help go through these dusty records dating back to the Eighties.

One ledger contained an alphabetical index of the stockholders of the "Terre Haute Building Loan Fund & Saving Association, No. 7." The officers of 1880 were, Frank F. Schmidt, president; A. Herz, vice president; C. J. Kloer, financial secretary; T. H. Fremont, Schatzmeister (treasurer); C. Krietenstein, recording secretary, and Geo. Klug and Jos. Lang, directors. In 1886 the total assets were listed as over \$98,000. This active organization of 80 years ago enabled many of the German-born element here to become homeowners.

Early Veteran Group.

Another old ledger book contained the signatures written in red ink of the members of the

Sons of Veterans Association which was organized here Aug. 14, 1891. According to their by-laws their object was "to advance the interests of veterans (Civil War), to promote harmony, unity and social intercourse between the several camps, devise means whereby they could equip and assemble quickly if necessary for parades and to extend courtesies of order to distinguished visitors, etc."

The local organization was known as "Blinn Camp No. 82 of the 8th Indiana Division." There were 22 camps in the 8th congressional district. Other camps in the vicinity were: Harbison Camp No. 3, at Hillsdale; Lieut. Owen Camp No. 62, Linton; Freeman Camp No. 263, Sullivan; G. M. White Camp No. 269, New Goshen; H. D. Washburne Camp No. 285, Clinton; and Ernest Camp No. 206, Middleton.

Capt. Geo. W. Krietenstein (the son of Carl Krietenstein, Civil War veteran) was president of Blinn Camp. Camp Commander Jerome W. Perry was secretary, and Wm. L. Krietenstein (another son of Carl) was first sergeant.

Included in this record were the receipted bills for an oyster supper held in 1892. The oysters, cakes and crackers were obtained from Ed E. Lawrence, baker, 31 No. 4th, for a total cost of \$7.25. Martin Wagner supplied five gallons of milk for 90 cents. C. F. Murphy & Co., 106 So. 4th, sold them 100 pickles for 50 cents, a sack of salt and a box of pepper for 5 cents each, and 2 pounds of butter for 50 cents. Other expenses were two pounds of coffee for 50 cents, 25 cents for renting oyster bowls, 10 cents each for sugar and gasoline and \$1 to the janitor, Robert Hines. A final tally showed that the group "went in the hole" over \$3.

More profitable was the boat ride sponsored by the Sons in 1892. They sold 367 tickets at 35 cents each. The river boat

"Janie Rea" was chartered for \$40. Chairs were rented from A. Z. Foster and E. D. Harvey for \$4.75. Other expenses were the printing of muslin streamers and tickets, advertisements in the Gazette, and having the table covers washed. The profit from that event was over \$70.

Parades Were Parades.

I couldn't help but compare our present day short street parades with those of the Gay Nineties. One parade was formed at Third and Ohio streets. From this starting point they proceeded east on Ohio, to Sixth, then south on Sixth to College, east to Seventh, north on Seventh to Chestnut, east on Chestnut to Fourteenth, south on Fourteenth to Main street, west on Main to Third, and south on Third back to the starting point at the Courthouse. Even though many rode in carriages, the majority went the entire way on foot. That was a parade!

Among the material loaned to me by the Tuttle family was a large leather-bound ledger dated July, 1892, which contained an alphabetical index of the people, business firms, organizations, churches, etc., who had accounts with Krietenstein's. The penmanship was particularly beautiful, one of the finest examples of the old-fashioned shaded writing which was so admired in earlier days.

The back page of this book was headed "Tandem Account," and listed the purchase on August 6, 1895, of a tandem bicycle which cost \$100. For 50 cents an hour this bicycle was rented by local men for the afternoon, an evening, or perhaps for just an hour. These gentlemen were Messrs. Rippetoe, Dronberger, Willien, Joe Hauk, A. Gagg, Filbeck's man, Wm. R. Teel, Simpson, Friedburg, Holden Commercial Company, Frank Hulman, Mr. Goldsmith and Arthur Stone.

For a six-month period the only expenses were two tire punctures which were repaired for 25 cents each. The tandem bicycle soon paid for itself in this manner.

Entered Drug Business.

After the Civil War, Carl Krietenstein entered the employ of Barr, Gulick & Berry, proprietors of a drug store in the old Terre Haute Hotel building. After learning the business thoroughly he formed a partnership with F. L. Shinkle under the firm name of Shinkle & Krietenstein in 1881, opening a drug store at 641 Main street which they called the Beehive Drug Store.

In less than a year this firm was dissolved and Mr. Krietenstein entered into partnership with Will W. Adamson under the firm name of Adamson & Krietenstein until 1885 when the junior partner became the sole owner. The following year he removed to the corner of Fourth and Ohio streets and in 1896 bought the brick business block on the southwest corner of Fourth and Cherry streets, where the business has flourished since that time.

It is to be remembered that

the early drug stores were also the supply stores for glass and paints. It wasn't until after the turn of the century that drug stores stopped selling paint and glass, and now, of course, the supermarket type of drug store is back to selling most everything again.

The Tuttle family cherish a tiny little handwritten book which contains the recipes for the medicines and drugs dispensed by Carl Krietenstein beginning in 1868. Remedies and cures are listed in this little book for nearly every ailment known to man and beast, and sometime in the future I hope to write a column on that subject.

If your attic or basement contains any "raw materials" for history, please call me or any member of the Historical Society.

Community Affairs File

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History of Historical Society

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

At a very early date in Vigo County, there was organized a society bearing the name Vigo County Historical Society, but it has long since disappeared. About all we know of it is a little story of a meeting held at the Courthouse, and the name of the speaker—Rev. Robert B. Croes. This was over one hundred years ago.

It was in April, 1818—138 years ago—that Vigo county was formed from a portion of Sullivan county.



Dorothy J. Clark

an dnamed in honor of Col. Francis Vigo. The Historical Society is called on many times to settle the dispute arising over the pronunciation of his name and the name of the county. The original and preferred pronunciation is "Veego," not "Vigo." Col. Vigo was a Sardinian by birth, but a Spanish subject, which explains the correct pronunciation of his name and the name of the county. Of the interesting life of Col. Vigo, we plan to tell more in future articles.

Earliest Records.

The earliest records of the present society were compiled by Dr. Walter O. Shriner, when he became treasurer in 1945. It is due to his efforts, and the accurate records of his predecessor, Miss Grace Davis, that we are able to piece together this history. The minutes of the early meetings were typed and bound in 1948 and have proved very enlightening.

On December 20, 1922, in response to a call for an open meeting to organize a historical society, the following persons were present: Judge and Mrs. D. W. Henry, Herbert Briggs, A. R. Markle and his daughter, Miss Margaret Markle, George A. Scott, A. A. Faurot, Miss Anna Sankey, Miss Mary Gilbert, Harry Gilbert, Miss Florence Crawford, James Benham and Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes. Judge Henry was chosen as chairman, and Mrs. Hughes as secretary pro tem. Various committees were appointed and a second meeting was scheduled to hear these committee reports and further organization plans.

Headed State Society.

The man mainly responsible for this organization meeting was Herbert Briggs. At this time he was president of the State Historical Society in Indianapolis and also headed the State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. It was through his enthusiasm and guidance that enough interest was created to achieve a county historical society. A prominent figure in public life, he was principal of Collett School, served on the school board and Board of Public Works, and was instrumental in having the city acquire the property where Gerstmeier now stands, from Rose Polytechnic Institute, when they moved out to their present location.

Then on January 4, 1923, the first constitution of the Vigo County Historical Society was adopted. The first officers elected under this constitution were: Judge D. W. Henry, president; George A. Scott, vice president; Sallie Hughes, secretary; Grace E. Davis, assistant secretary; Margaret Markle, treasurer; Anna B. Sankey, curator, and Florence P. Crawford, genealogist.

Articles Filed.

It was decided to file articles of incorporation, and the Vigo County

Historical Society was incorporated Aug. 23, 1924, and the articles were filed Sept. 5, 1924. The purposes of the organization were stated to be educational and particularly for the collection and preservation of relics, documents, records, maps, wills, letters, genealogies, and other material of any nature relative to the history and development of the City of Terre Haute, the County of Vigo and State of Indiana, and to promote an appreciation and consciousness of the historical development of the community or nation and the American Heritage of its citizens.

The first directors named in 1924 were: Henry C. Gilbert, B. V. Marshall, Herbert Briggs, D. W. Henry, Adrian A. Beecher and Charles Minshall. Mr. Scott is the only original director now living, in his 94th year, and still very much interested in the Society.

Other Charter Members.

Other charter members who signed the articles of incorporation in 1924 were: Susan B. Ball, Mary Beach, Helen C. Benbridge, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bigwood, Mrs. Laura Briggs, O. M. Brown, Harriet F. Coffroth, Fred Conrath, Wilson N. Cox, Florence Crawford, Grace Davis, Sidney B. Davis, Rose Farrington, Mary Gilbert, Zelia Gilbert, Helen G. Gillum, M. C. Gillum, Virginia T. Henry, W. H. Hoff, Emilie Katzenbach, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kean, Harriette F. Law, Mary F. Law, Simon Levi, Henry C. Miller, Henry M. Richardson, Leonard Roach, Mrs. George A. Scott, Mrs. D. S. Scott, Fred M. Shickel, Guy P. Shickel, August Stukenberg, and Caroline Sidney Wood. Of these 44 charter members, it is believed, to the best of our knowledge, that only six are still living.

Judge D. W. Henry was elected president at the first annual meeting in January, 1925, and served until his death. In 1928 he was succeeded by George A. Scott, who served until his resignation in 1940. Next, Waldo F. Mitchell served as president from 1940-1942. Dr. Mitchell has recently been appointed executive secretary.

Inactive During War.

During World War II the Society became inactive, but after the close of the war, a call was issued to several members of the old organization to reactivate the Society, and in late October, 1945, a small group met in the assembly room of the library. In November, when a larger group met, they elected A. R. Markle as president, H. E. Madison as secretary, and W. O. Shriner as treasurer. Others who attended this meeting were Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Vermillion, Miss Crawford and John G. Biel. It is from this small group that the society has grown from 1945 to its present membership of nearly 300. In 1947, Loring C. Halberstadt was elected president and has served continuously since that time. A contributing factor in the society's growth is its monthly publication edited and distributed so ably by Miss Juliet Peddle. This interesting little paper is called "The Leaves of Thyme," and is received each month by all the members.

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Historical Notes of Terre Haute and Vigo County and Their People

Sunday, May 20, 1951.

By A. R. Markle.

At a very early date in the county, there was organized a society bearing this name, the Vigo County Historical Society, but it has long since disappeared. About all we know of it is a little story of a meeting held at the Court House and the name of the speaker.

In 1924, a corporation was organized with the name "Vigo County Historical Society." It was incorporated August 23, 1924, and the articles were filed September 5, 1924. The articles of association named the purposes of the organization and named nine directors to serve until the annual meeting, to be held on the second Tuesday in January, 1925.

These first directors were: H. C. Gilbert, George A. Scott, Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes, Professor Albert A. Faurot, B. V. Marshall, Herbert Briggs, D. W. Henry, Adrian A. Beecher, and Charles Minshall. The articles were signed by thirty-nine others.

The Original Members.

These names include: Mary Gilbert, J. M. Bigwood, Grace E. Davis, Emilie M. Katzenbach, Wilson N. Cox, Mary F. Law, Zelia L. Gilbert, M. K. Gillum, Helen C. Benbridge, Fred M. Shickel, Henry S. Richardson, George F. Kean, Virginia I. Henry, August Stukenberg, Mrs. J. H. Bigwood, Mrs. and Laura Briggs, Florence P. Crawford, Mrs. W. N. Cox, Mary D. Beach, Rose Farrington, Caroline Sydney Wood, W. H. Hoff, August F. Eiser, Henry C. Miller, Harriet Henry Kean, Harriet E. Law, Sydney B. Davis, Frank Conrath, Mrs. George A. Scott, Simon Levi, O. M. Brown, Susan B. Ball, Helen G. Gillum, Marlon T. Smith, Harriet W. Coffroth, Guy P. Shickel, Leonard Roach, Mrs. D. S. Scott.

Of the above directors, George A. Scott is the only survivor. He is now in his ninetieth year and still alive to anything concerning the history of Terre Haute.

Other Survivors.

Mary Gilbert and Mary Law are living on South Sixth Street. Grace E. Davis lives on South Seventh Street, her father having died several years ago. Miss Benbridge still lives on North Seventh Street in the old family home. Mr. and Mrs. Kean still are living in the southern section of the city. Mrs. Kean is the daughter of Davey Henry, who was the first president of the Historical Society. She still has many of her father's possessions. Her mother was the daughter of Colonel R. W. Thompson, the "silver tongued orator of the west" and one-time Secretary of the Navy under President Hayes. His monument is a bronze bust in the Court House yard. Mrs. George A. Scott is another survivor of the original group and with her husband resides on North Center Street, above Chestnut.

W. H. Hoff is another of the sur-

vivors of the original membership. His grocery store at Thirteenth and Wabash is also entitled to a niche in the hall of fame, as his place is probably now the oldest grocery store in the city. Mr. Hoff has in his possession, a small cash book which shows original purchases made by his father, when he started in business in August of 1865. In addition, this account is one of the oldest continuous accounts shown on the records of Hulman & Company.

Miss Florence Crawford is the present librarian of the Fairbanks Library, which, in its existence in the present building, has had but two librarians. She succeeded Mrs. Sallie Hughes, who was the librarian when it opened. Mrs. Hughes died in 1927. She was the first secretary of the Society.

Other Early Members.

Among the early members who helped to organize the Society were the writer, who was out of the city at the time the articles were signed and whose daughter, Margaret, now Mrs. Arthur Woodcock, of Flint, Michigan, was elected treasurer at the first annual meeting and served for two years until she removed from the city. She was succeeded by Miss Davis, who served from 1927 until the reorganization of the Society in 1945.

Judge Henry was elected president at the first annual meeting and served until his death in June 1929. He was succeeded by George A. Scott, who served until his resignation. He was succeeded by Waldo F. Mitchell, during whose term, the Society became inactive because of the war. Professor Mitchell is still alive and on the faculty of State Teachers College.

Mr. H. C. Gilbert was one of the earliest and most active members, and in the files of the Society are many acceptances of his offer of honorary membership to a great many of our early citizens, who were still alive at the time of the organization. He died in 1934, and his wife in 1940. She was Zelia Law, and sister of Mary and Harriet Law, the latter having died in 1945.

Professor Albert A. Faurot was on the faculty of Rose Polytechnic for many years and served many terms as secretary of the Society. He died June 26, 1948.

Buena Vista Marshall was a prominent attorney here for many years, and on the board of managers of the Rose Dispensary. His son, Leonard, became president of the Terre Haute First National Bank & Trust Co.

Herbert Briggs was, for many years, a teacher in the public schools and was, to a great extent, responsible for the insertion of local history in the curriculum of the public school system in Indiana. He died March 9, 1929, and his second wife, who had been Miss Laura Pound, died this year.

Adrian A. Beecher, one of the first directors, and a prominent attorney here for many years, at his

own expense, had typed a copy of Order Book No. 1 of the County Commissioners, which is still in the family's possession.

Charles Minshall was a member of a very prominent family in the community. His father, D. W. Minshall, was one of the promoters of the First National Bank. When Judge Demas Deming called for his son to join him, Mr. Minshall took young Deming's place with W. R. McKeen. This partnership firm became known as McKeen and Minshall at Third and Wabash, which, in 1876, first occupied their own bank building at Sixth and Wabash until the dissolution of their partnership in 1877. Charles Minshall died a few years ago.

The Re-Organization.

With the outbreak of World War II, the society became dormant, and remained so, until the writer's return from the west coast in 1945. A call was issued to several members of the old organization and in late October A. R. Markle, H. E. Madison, and about three others, met in the assembly room of the Fairbanks Library. They organized a temporary movement with Markle as president, and Madison as secretary, and called for a meeting to be held on the second Tuesday in November, when a group consisting of Markle, Madison, Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Vermillion, Miss Crawford, W. O. Shriner, John G. Biel, and a few others elected Markle president, Madison secretary, and W. O. Shriner treasurer. At the annual meeting, held on the second Tuesday in January, Messrs. Markle, Madison and Shriner were elected to serve the year.

Mr. Biel was instructed to take up with the Secretary of State, the matter of our delinquency in the annual reports and the payment of the annual fee. The following year, L. C. Halberstadt was elected president, Mrs. Laverne Hughes secretary, and W. O. Shriner treasurer, while the full board of nine directors and the vice-president were also elected.

Following the old tradition that a shoemaker's children are always barefoot, the Historical Society has never written a history of its own and the writer, while unofficially titled "curator," has very little knowledge of its publications or history. Little or none of such materials has ever come into his hands.

Community Affairs File

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

HISTORY OF MUSEUM BUILDING

Though the history of the property located at the southwest corner of Sixth and Washington streets, begins in 1825, according to the abstract, we're mainly interested in the history from the time the house was built on the property.

We have learned that the house was built in three sections. The first and front part was built by William H. Sage in 1868 after acquiring a one-half interest in the entire property in 1864 from Henry H. Teel and his wife, Millie.

The 1868 City Directory lists Mr. Sage as a "baker and confectioner, dealer in fruits, nuts and fire-works" at 119 Main street. His residence was listed as "southwest corner of Sixth and Moffatt streets"—an earlier name for Washington street. Here he remained until 1875 when he sold the property to Henry Robinson, who owned the house for the next twenty-seven years. Beginning in 1876, the City Directory listed Mr. Robinson as living at 1409 South Sixth until 1901 when the address was changed to 1411 South Sixth street, the address it has now.

Mr. Robinson died in 1904 and his widow died in 1904. During the two years the estates were settled, the house was occupied by Frank C. and Mabel Wagner and their children, who rented the property. Professor Wagner taught at Rose Polytechnic Institute.

In 1905 the property was purchased by Clemens W. Nagel and has been lived in by some member of that family until it was purchased by the Vigo County Historical Society from Mrs. Marcella Nagel Lundgren. The Robinson family was responsible for the second part of the house, as the Nagel family was for the third and last addition in the remodeling of the building.

On a very limited budget, the Vigo County Historical Society has managed to put the house in very good order for their Museum purposes. The electric lighting was modernized and the rooms were either painted or papered. Over the years the Society has collected an enormous amount of historical treasures, including furniture, books, items of every conceivable interest for future Museum display, from clocks to spinning wheels, from a piano to postcards, from ox yokes to dainty trousseau garments of long ago.

Under the supervision of Dr. Waldo F. Mitchell, executive secretary, exhibits have been placed in the many glass display cases in readiness for the formal opening to be held Sunday, May 11, from 2 to 5 p. m. Many committees, including hostesses, transportation, hospitality, music, publicity, etc., have been working under the leadership of Mrs. Robert I. Clark, secretary of the Society, who has been serving as general chairman of open house.

The Vigo County Historical Society welcomes all interested persons to inspect Terre Haute's first Museum, a long-awaited advance in this community's cultural and educational growth.

Officers and Directors of the Vigo County Historical Society

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President
JOHN G. BIEL,
Vice President
WARREN H. BREWER, SR.,
Treasurer
MRS. ROBERT I. CLARK,
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